

RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS

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GHOST RIDER



ANDY KUBER /
(JOE KUBER)

Part 6
of 6

For eons, the walls between our earth and the supernatural realms have held fast ... until now. Now those walls are weakening, and LILITH, Queen of Evil, Mother of Demons, has risen from her slumber to shatter the walls and free her hellish spawn. Only the strangest of alliances can drive her back ... a union of old enemies and new heroes, in a battle forever to be remembered as the ...

RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS™

GHOST RIDER #31 PART 6

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GHOST RIDER #28 Part 1
SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #1 Part 2
MORBIUS #1 Part 3
DARKHOLD #1 Part 4
NIGHTSTALKERS #1 Part 5



DAN KETCH
WALKS A PATH
THAT FEW OF
THE LIVING HAVE
TRAVELED.

A NARROW PATH
WHICH THREADS ITS WAY
THROUGH THE DIMENSION
OF DREAMS AND
NIGHTMARE'S REALM.

ORDER AND CHAOS
VIE FOR DOMINION.

DAN ATTEMPTS
TO KEEP HIS FOCUS
UPON THE PATH ON
WHICH HE WALKS.

ATTEMPTS TO
SHUT OUT
THE IMAGES THAT
BOMBARD HIM.

THESE ARE
IMAGES FOR
THE DEAD.

DAN KETCH'S
JOURNEY LEADS
TO LIFE.

MEANWHILE,
HIGH ABOVE
BOSTON...

LILITH, ANCIENT
MOTHER OF DEMONS,
CRADLES THE HEAD
OF THE FIRST OF HER
CHILDREN TO FALL--

THE LILIN KNOWN
AS MEATMARKET,
DESTROYED BY
THE COMBINED EFFORTS
OF THE NIGHTSTALKERS,
BLAZE, AND
GHOST RIDER.*

THE REMAINING LILIN--
NAKOTA, DOC, FANG,
PILGRIM, AND BLACKOUT--
LOOK ON AS MOTHER MOURNS
THE LOSS OF HER CHILD.

IT IS TIME FOR A
DIFFERENT
TACTIC.

I HAD HOPED
TO WAIT UNTIL
I HAD REGAINED
MORE OF
MY FORMER
POWER, BUT
THE TIME IS
NOW UPON US.

PILGRIM!

YOUR ATTEMPT
TO BREAK THEIR
NUMBER AND THUS
CHANGE THE COURSE
OF THE VISION
THAT I BEHELD
HAS FAILED.

DEAR
MEATMARKET,
WHAT HAVE THESE
VILE CREATURES
DONE TO YOU?

*SEE NIGHTSTALKERS #1.

YES,
MOTHER?

TAKE ME TO THE LAND OF
THE MIDNIGHT SUN!

THE PLACE OF MY RESURRECTION
SHALL BE THE SOURCE OF
THE DOWNFALL OF OUR ENEMIES.

SOON ALL
MY CHILDREN WILL
BE RETURNED TO ME.
THEN WE WILL FEAST
ON THE PITIFUL BONES
OF OUR FOES.

STARTING WITH THE PSEUDO-
DEMON...GHOST RIDER!

MEANWHILE, IN
THE BERKSHIRE
MOUNTAINS...

TELL ME AGAIN
WHY WE HAVE TO
SEE DR. STRANGE
IN SUCH A HURRY,
GHOST RIDER.

ONLY HE
HAS THE ABILITY
TO SAVE
DAN'S LIFE...

AFTER OUR RUN-
IN WITH HANNIBAL KING
AND HIS CREW I SAY WE
MADE MORE ENEMIES
THAN ALLIES.

AND MAYBE
STRANGE CAN
INTERPRET
THAT VISION THAT
YOU AND
DAN SHARED.

I KNOW THAT HE CAN

...AND HE
MAY BE ABLE
TO ASSIST US
WITH LILITH'S
DEFEAT.

WE MIGHT
AS WELL
GO SEE
STRANGE.

SO FAR OUR
SEARCH FOR
ALLIES IN THIS
WAR AGAINST
LILITH HAS
BEEN A BUST.

SINCE WHEN ARE
YOU SO SURE
OF THINGS?

I'LL EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING TO YOU
WHEN THE TIME IS
RIGHT, BLAZE.



MEANWHILE, IN THE NORTHERN-
MOST REGION OF GREENLAND,
THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN...

WE ARE HERE,
MY CHILDREN.



MOTHER!
THE PAIN!

BE STRONG,
BLACKOUT!

THE BLOOD THAT
COURSES THROUGH
YOUR VEINS IS OF
ANCIENT STOCK!

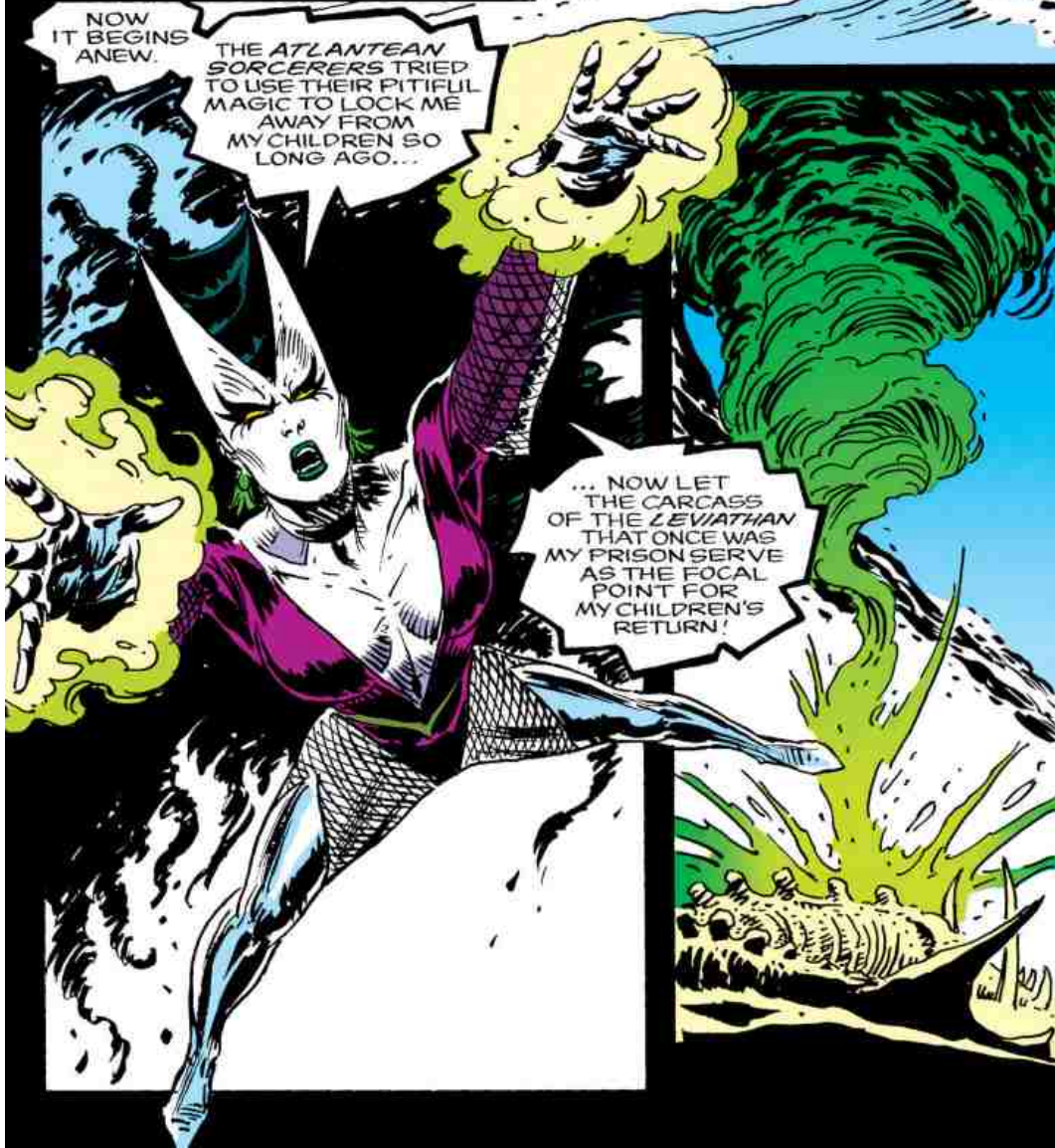
IT MAY BE DILUTED
THROUGH YEARS OF
INTERMARRIAGE WITH
HUMANS, BUT...

... YOU ARE *LILIN*
AND SHOULD BE
STRONG ENOUGH TO
RESIST THE PAIN
THE SUN IS CAUSING
YOUR FAIR SKIN!



NOW
IT BEGINS
ANEW.

THE ATLANTEAN
SORCERERS TRIED
TO USE THEIR PITIFUL
MAGIC TO LOCK ME
AWAY FROM
MY CHILDREN SO
LONG AGO...



... NOW LET
THE CARCASS
OF THE *LEVIATHAN*
THAT ONCE WAS
MY PRISON SERVE
AS THE FOCAL
POINT FOR
MY CHILDREN'S
RETURN!

THE WORLD WILL
ONCE AGAIN LEARN
TO FEAR THE NAME
OF *LILITH*.





MANHATTAN...

MS. MONTESI...
ARE YOU SURE WE
HAVE TO CATCH
THE SHUTTLE FOR
WASHINGTON
TONIGHT?

SAM, YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO CATCH
ANYTHING.



I KNOW THAT
THERE IS SOMETHING
CONNECTED WITH
THE DARKHOLD
GOING ON
DOWN THERE.

PROFESSOR
HASTINGS AND I
ARE GOING
WITH YOU...

...OR
PREFERABLY
WITHOUT!

I'M GETTING
PAID TO BE
YOUR WATCHDOG,
LADY!

THEN
WATCH
AND DON'T
QUESTION.



HEY, BUDDY! YOU
MIND IF I LET YOU
OFF IN FRONT OF
THE PLAZA, SO I
CAN PICK THESE
THREE UP?

I WAS
HOPING
THAT YOU
WOULD.

WE ARE **NOT**
RESPONSIBLE FOR
ITEMS LEFT!



DRIVER
TAKE US TO
LA GUARDIA
AIRPORT...

WE ARE **NOT**
RESPONSIBLE FOR
ITEMS LEFT!



NO PROBLEM, LADY!
THAT IS IF YOU DON'T
MIND IF THIS GUY PAYS
ME FIRST?

HUH?
WHERE'D
THEY GO...?

BACK IN GREENLAND...

MOTHER.

DOC HAS
FOUND A
NEW BODY
FOR ME.

SNIP! SNIP!
A LITTLE OF THIS
AND A LITTLE
OF THAT...

...MEAT/MARKET
HAS A NEW BODY AND
YOU HAVE TWO MORE
BODYGUARDS COMPLIMENTS
OF THE LEFTOVER BODY
PARTS OF THE
EXPLORERS WHO FIRST
FOUND YOU! *

*IN SPIRITS OF
VENGEANCE #1.



ELSEWHERE...

WHAT IS HAPPENING
HERE?

THIS DIMENSION
IS BEING TORN
TO SHREDS.

A LIGHT.

AGAIN?



BOSTON.

THREE MEN PREPARE TO
BREAK INTO THE OFFICES
OF THE BORDERLINE
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES.

THEY ARE HANNIBAL KING,
FRANK DRAKE
AND BLADE.

THEY ARE
BORDERLINE.

NEVER
THOUGHT
WE'D HAVE A
DIRECT ASSAULT
ON OUR OFFICES.

FRANK, IS
THE EXORCIST
CHARGED?

YES.

JUST OPEN
THE DOOR, KING,
I HAVEN'T CUT
ANYTHING IN
A COUPLE
OF HOURS.

OKAY.
LET'S...



THE LOWER EAST SIDE
OF MANHATTAN...

DR. MICHAEL
MORBIUS FINISHES
DRAINING THE BLOOD
FROM THE LATEST
OF HIS VICTIMS.

THE BLOOD QUELLS
A HUNGER DEEPER
THAN THAT KNOWN BY
ANY OTHER
LIVING MAN.

IS THIS
SORT OF
BEHAVIOR
NECESSARY,
MICHAEL?

THEY WERE
CRIMINALS,
MY FRIEND,
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE
MURDERS OF
AT LEAST
FOUR
HOMELESS
PEOPLE...

... DESERVING
OF THEIR FATE
... AND MINE.

BUT YOU
DIDN'T COME
HERE TO DEBATE
MY LIFESTYLE.

I HAVE
NEED OF YOUR
HELP.

YOU ONLY HAVE
TO ASK.

IT IS
DANGEROUS,
BUT NECESSARY
YOU ARE INVOLVED
IN IT ALREADY.
MORE THAN YOU
YET KNOW. I WOULD
LIKE TO TELL YOU
MORE, BUT RIGHT
NOW I MUST
SEND YOU
THROUGH A RIFT
TO JOIN THE
OTHERS...

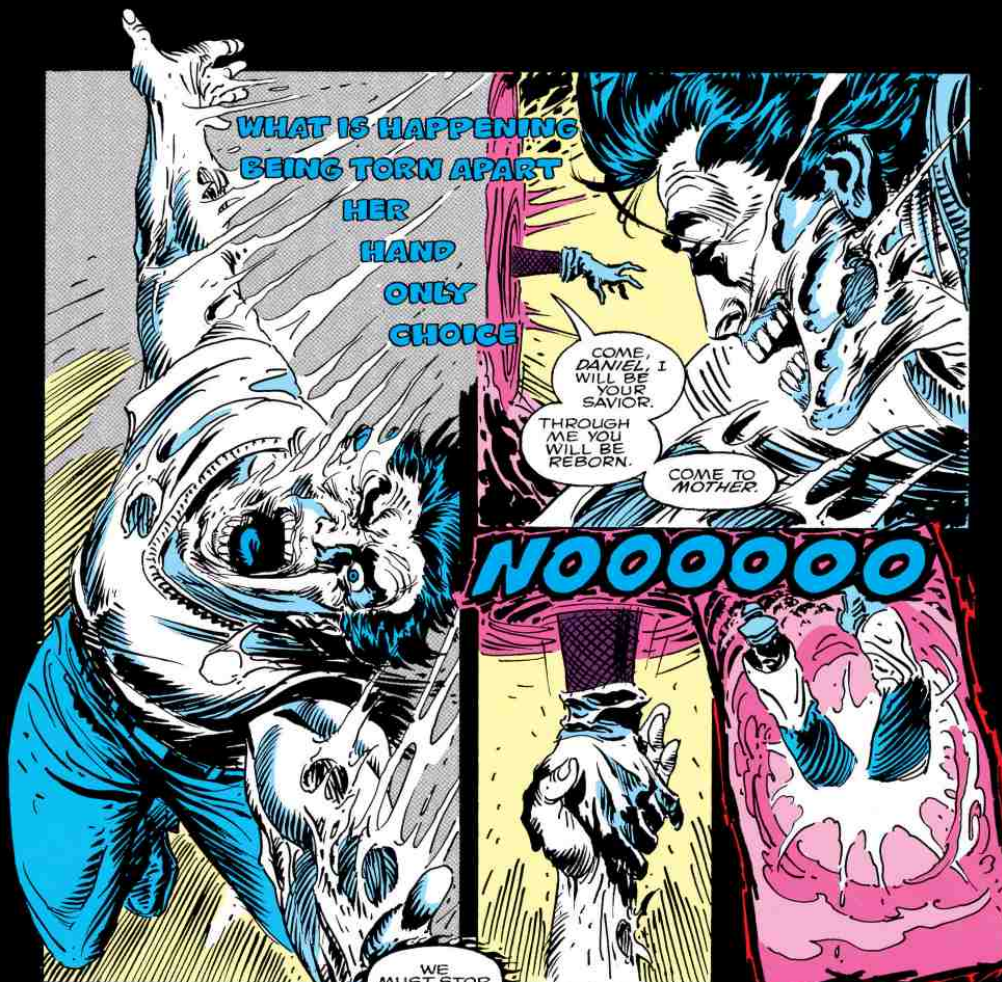
SEND
ME WHERE
YOU
WILL.

GOOD LUCK
TO YOU,
MORBIUS...

... I PRAY
THAT WHEN NEXT
WE MEET YOU
WILL STILL CALL
ME FRIEND!

AT THAT MOMENT...













SMOOTH, KING. NO FLIES ON YOU.

GENTLEMEN, LOOKS LIKE IT'S OUR TURN!

FRANKY, YOU GOT THE EXORCIST CHARGE UP?

JUST ABOUT FULLY CHARGED AND...

THWAK

...READY...?

NICE, FRANKY! MAYBE WE'LL GET YOU A STRAP FOR THAT THING.

THE DIRTY WORK IS ALWAYS LEFT TO ME!



NOT THAT I'M COMPLAINING!



BINGO. RIGHT IN THE HEART!

LOOKS LIKE MAYBE HE DIDN'T LIKE THAT, BLADE?



OOPH! SHUT UP AND CATCH ME, KING?



GREAT. YOU'VE GOT HIM TIED UP WITH YOUR CHAIN...

...NOW WHAT? WE CAN'T KILL IT, SOMEWHERE INSIDE IT'S DAN.

ONLY ONE MAN CAN SAVE HIM.

THAT MAN DARES NOT INTERFERE WITH ME, GHOST RIDER.

LILIN! KILL THEM ALL. THEY HAVE BEEN SOFTENED BY THE ATTACK OF MY INFANT.



ALL WILL BE RIGHT, CHILD. SOON THEIR NUMBER WILL BE BROKEN.



REST. LET THE TRANSFORMATION COMPLETE ITSELF.



MY CHILDREN, YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR MOTHER WELL.

IT IS TIME YOU FELT MY TRUE POWER.



PERHAPS I AM WEAKER THAN ONCE I WAS...

...BUT I AM STILL MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THE LIKES OF YOU.

YOU WILL ALL ENTER THE RIFT AND EMERGE AS LILIN!





LADY, YOUR KIDS HAVE BECOME A REAL PAIN.

I REALLY DON'T NEED TO SEE ANY MORE OF THEM!

SHE'S RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TO SHUT THE RIFT WITHIN LILITH SOMEHOW...

THE RIFT! YOU MUST DESTROY THE RIFT NOW!



...BUT FIRST WE'VE GOT TO GET DAN BACK ON THE OTHER SIDE.

THIS WILL BE DONE.



NO!

DO YOU THINK THAT IS ALL IT WILL TAKE TO STOP ME?



NO, NOW YOU WILL DIE, MONSTER!

I THINK NOT, VAMPIRE.

FANG--

YES, MOTH--

CRIPPLE!

THE TASTE
OF YOUR DEAD
CHILD'S BLOOD
REPULSES ME,
BUT IT ALSO HAS
A FAMILIAR
TAINT TO IT.

IT WAS HIS BLOOD
WHICH WAS
INTERMINGLED
WITH
THE SERUM THAT
LANGFORD INTENDED
TO USE TO KILL ME!

IT WAS HIS BLOOD
WHICH
MUTATED ME.

*MORBIUS #1.

NICE TALK,
VAMPIRE,
BUT THERE'S STILL
A DEMON MOTHER
TO BE SLICED!

MOTHER--NOOOOHHH!

SHE'S
CONTROLLING
THEM...

...MAKING THEM
GIVE THEIR LIVES
FOR HER. THAT IS
HER POWER.

WE CAN'T
GET TO HER IN
TIME. ONLY A
DIRECT ASSAULT
ON THE RIFT
WILL DO IT.

DRAKE,
IS THAT GUN
OF YOURS
UP TO IT?

COME ON,
PROFESSOR. YOUR
PLAN WORKED.
THIS PLACE IS ABOUT
TO COME DOWN
AROUND
OUR EARS.

BLACKOUT.

MY LIFE
FOR YOU...

IF NOT,
NOTHING
ELSE IS!

BUT
THERE IS
SO MUCH
MORE TO
SEE!

KRAKOOOM

AND WE'RE NOT
GOING TO BE
AROUND TO TELL
ANYONE ABOUT IT
IF WE DON'T GET
AWAY FROM
HERE NOW!

GHOST RIDER!
GET YOUR BONY
BUTT OUT
OF HERE!

NO...



... I MUST BE ASSURED
OF LILITH'S DEATH!

HER CHILDREN
MUST NOT BE
ALLOWED TO
RISE AGAIN.

DO NOT
MAKE ME
LAUGH!

WHAT
WILL HAPPEN
WHEN YOU
ENTER YOUR
OWN RIFT?

EVEN YOU
DO NOT HAVE
THE POWER TO
DEFEAT ME!

IT IS NOT
MY POWER,
DEMON
MOTHER...

... IT IS YOUR OWN
THAT WILL BE
YOUR UNDOING?

KRAK

NOOOO

WOOO



HE SAW
IT THROUGH
TO THE END.
I'M GLAD
IT'S OVER.

SO
ARE
WE...

...GHOST
RIDER AND
MORBIUS ARE
THE NEXT PIECE
OF BUSINESS ON
OUR LIST.

AND THIS
SAVES US
THE HASSLE OF
TRACKING THEM
DOWN.

HOW
COULD
YOU?

'CAUSE OF
WHAT THEY ARE,
LADY. BESIDES WE'RE
STILL NOT TOO SURE
ABOUT THE REST
OF YOU --

WE ALL
WORKED
TOGETHER ON
THIS! WHY
THEM?

A MYSTICAL RIFT
SURROUNDING THEM
AND US. WE'RE...

WHO KEEPS DOING
THAT, MORBIUS?

I THOUGHT
IT WAS THAT
PILGRIM,
OR ONE OF THE OTHER
LILIN!

NO, IT WAS
A FRIEND.



WOULD A FRIEND HAVE ASKED YOU TO RISK YOUR LIVES, MICHAEL?

IF SO, THEN, YES, I AM A FRIEND.

YOU, DR. STRANGE, BROUGHT US ALL HERE?



AS SOON AS I SENSED THE DIMENSIONAL WALLS WEAKENING AND LILITH'S REBIRTH.

FROM THE BEGINNING, JOHN BLAZE.



ALL NINE OF YOU WERE NEEDED TO DEFEAT HER.

THERE WAS A MYSTICAL POWER IN YOUR NUMBER.

THE PRESENCE OF ALL OF YOU WAS NEEDED TO DEFEAT LILITH THIS DAY.

EVEN THAT OF KING AND HIS COMPANIONS... THOSE WHO WOULD SEE YOU ALL DEAD.



SOON I WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEM. REVEAL ALL TO THEM. BUT NOT YET.

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST STOP LILITH YOURSELF? YOU'VE GOT ALL THIS GREAT MYSTICAL POWER!

IF I HAD, EVEN IN DEFEAT, LILITH WOULD HAVE WON.

MYSTICAL FORCES SUCH AS OURS COULD NOT MEET HEAD ON WITHOUT THE UNDOING OF THE DIMENSIONAL WALLS WHICH I SEEK TO PROTECT.



BUT SHE
HAS BEEN
DEFEATED
THIS DAY...

...AND NOW WE
MUST ATTEND
TO GHOST RIDER
AND YOUNG
DANIEL.

!KOFF!
!KOFF!

DEAD, ALL DEAD.
LILITH'S MAGIC
IS FADING.
G-GETTING C-COLD!

I'M G-GOING TO
DIE... **AWEE!**



DON'T BE
FRIGHTENED,
MY CHILD, IT'S
ONLY MOTHER.

COME CLOSER,
I AM WEAK. THIS
NIGHT HAS DEPLETED
ME. I AM SO HUNGRY.
I NEED
NOURISHMENT.

MOTHER, I HAVE
NOTHING TO GIVE YOU.
AND I'M SO COLD.

YOU HAVE MUCH,
MY DEAR. YOU AND
YOUR BRETHREN
WILL NOURISH ME.
STRENGTHEN ME.
ON YOUR FLESH.

DO NOT FIGHT
IT, CHILD. GIVE
YOUR FLESH AND
MAYBE NOT TOMORROW,
BUT SOMEDAY, YOU WILL
BE BORN AGAIN, AND YOU
AND I AND YOUR
SIBLINGS WILL GATHER
ONCE MORE, STRONGER
AND BETTER ABLE
TO DEFEAT THESE
MIDNIGHT SONS.

NOOOOOOOO

END.